

友愛 | Friendship Magazine

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DIOCESE OF TAIWAN

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BISHOP'S LETTER



Chinese New Year (Spring Festival) is fast approaching, and the Chinese character that we always see displayed around this time is the character for blessing, 'fu' 福. This character is often printed upside down on diagonal red squares, because the word for 'upside down' and 'arrive' sound almost identical, so the meaning conveyed is that the blessing has already arrived.

Different countries, areas, cultures and lifestyles

all have different expectations of what 'blessing' means to them. For all of us, whether we come from a eastern or western culture, we are all seeking blessing in life.

It is a common goal of humanity. One of the main differences between east and west is what we expect to do in order to receive blessing, and what those blessings actually are.

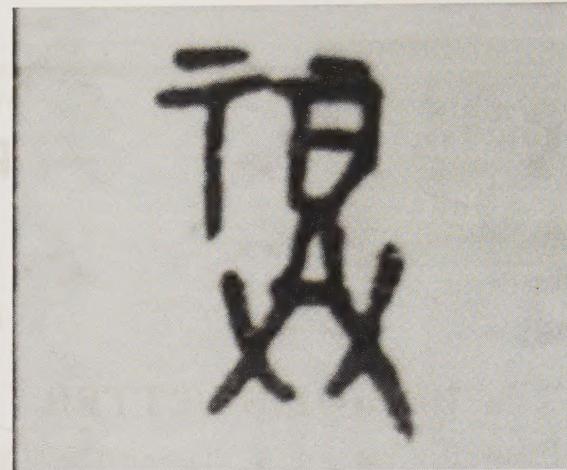


ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANGSHAN, 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, NOVEMBER 28, 2015

The original Chinese character for ‘fu’ or ‘blessing’ shows 2 open hands (see right photo) holding a container to sacrifice to God. The Chinese view of God and the Christian view of God are very different, and although the 2 hands and container are no longer so evident in the modern way of writing ‘fu’, the part of the character denoting God has been retained on the left side (see right photo below).

Chinese people traditionally recognize, and seek to receive 5 blessings in life, as follows: long life, wealth, health, virtue and a peaceful death. Chinese New Year is traditionally a time when the Chinese try to discipline themselves through good behavior and personal meditation, and offer their gifts at the temple in the hope of receiving blessing. Different temples house different gods, and different gods offer different blessings.

How different from our Christian faith! The word ‘Gospel’ means ‘good news’ and is translated into Chinese as ‘fu-yin’福音, using the same character ‘fu’ as for blessing. When we share our faith, we share the good news of Christ, the ‘blessing’ offered by God. The Christian interpretation of ‘blessing’ revolves around a relationship with our Heavenly Father. Micah 6:8 says, “He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God”. We are called to follow the teachings and commandments outlined in the Bible, to repent and be baptized, and to be good disciples of Christ. We believe that our Heavenly Father will comfort, heal, strengthen, protect and bless us. Peace and joy come from serving Him. When God is with us, we can face sin and evil, and in His power overcome and gain the victory. Praise the Lord that the peace and joy from God is some-



thing that nobody and no circumstance can take away or destroy.

In the Old Testament, I think of Abraham, Joseph and Moses, 3 good examples of those who received blessing from God. Joseph became prime minister of Egypt and helped the country and his own family to survive 7 years of famine, and was able to forgive his brothers for

their sin against him. Their restored relationship was a true blessing from God.

Moses was chosen by God to lead the people out of Egypt and was given the 10 commandments for the people to follow. In choosing Old Testament examples, I want to emphasize that from the beginning of creation until today, the situation remains the same for the people of God, that if we believe and trust in Almighty God, then he will bless us. He is the beginning and source, the giver of all blessing. No matter our age, sex, culture, race, nationality, position or background, no matter the changing fashions of the time, our Heavenly God is

always eternal, and continues to bless us through our trust in Him.

In our modern, fast-paced lives, changes happen rapidly, especially in technology, fashion, medical care and lifestyle. Most people seek only blessings that are tangible and immediate, that can satisfy their needs here and now. Sadly the end result is often not increased happiness, but rather increased anxiety, worry and depression. When true blessing does not appear, and peace and joy seem elusive, sadly it is common in Taiwan to go to the fortune teller or astrologer to seek their advice. True blessing is from God and only when we follow the teachings in the Bible and trust in Him will we find true peace and joy.

R.I.P. Rev. Canon Samuel Ta-Tung Chen 陳大同牧師

Retired priest, Rev. Samuel Ta-Tung Chen died in Taipei on September 25, 2015, aged 91, after a long illness. His funeral was held at the Taipei Funeral Home on Friday October 16, and led by Bishop David J. H. Lai. Samuel was born in 1924 in Shan-Tung Province in China, the only son of devout Buddhist parents. In 1946, aged 22, he came to Taiwan to accompany his great aunt on a trip to visit her son. Political turmoil in China led him to settle in Taiwan permanently, where he worked for 10 years with the Tobacco and Wine Monopoly



in Chia-Yi under Mr. Paul Chang, brother-in-law of Canon Chancellor Herbert Ma. Mr. Chang invited Samuel to his home for services of the church fellowship that would later become St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi. Through their witness, Samuel was baptized and later entered seminary training in Tainan Theological College. He went on to serve as vicar at St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi, and always said that his happiest years were those spent there in Chia-Yi. He is survived by his wife and 3 children.

Other diocesan news

Bishop Lai and Mrs. Lily Lai participated in the Episcopal Asiamerica Ministries Consultation, "Celebrating Our Partnerships, Uniting Our Mission" from September 30 – October 5, 2015 in Seoul, Korea, and the 125th anniversary of the Anglican Church in Korea, celebrated on Saturday October 3 with a celebration Eucharist at the Cathedral of St. Mary and St. Nicholas, Seoul.

Bishop Lai, Mrs. Lily Lai, Mrs. Amy Lin, Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang and Mr. Stony Wu represented the Diocese of Taiwan at the CCEA Full Assembly in Manila from October 7-12, 2015.

From mid-October 2015 to

mid-January 2016, Rev. Joseph Wu Ming-Long 吳明

龍牧師, vicar of St. Luke's

Church, Hualien, has been on a parish placement in the

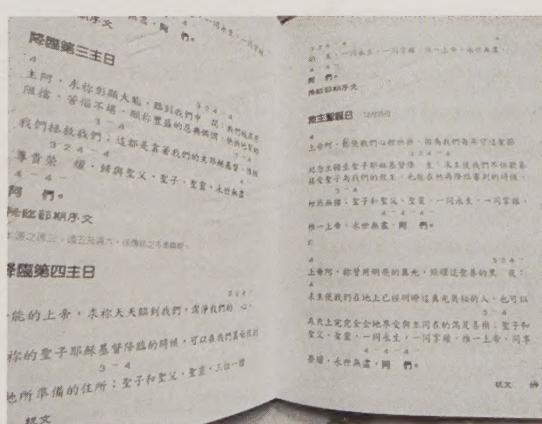
Diocese of Hawaii, kindly arranged by the Bishop of Hawaii, Rt. Rev. Bob Fitzpatrick, also retired

bishop, Rt. Rev. Dick Chang, and Mrs. Mimi Wu.

Rev. Joseph Wu's report will appear in the next issue of Friendship Magazine.

The Diocese of Taiwan has translated and published an Altar Book in Mandarin Chinese suitable for use by our clergy in our churches in Taiwan (extract in the photo below). The book is over 200 pages long, and includes all the musical notation for all the different liturgies. It has been a 3-year project, including all the translation and preparation for publication. We are also sharing copies with other Chinese

churches in S. E. Asia, Hong Kong and the USA. The Diocese of Taiwan is very grateful to the Rev. Dr. David G. Henritz and The Bible and Common Prayer Book Society of the Episcopal Church for their generous donation of US\$ 2,500 towards the publication costs.



About 200 people, youth and adults, from the Taiwan Episcopal Church, led by Bishop Lai, attended the NCCT (National Council of Churches of Taiwan) annual ecumenical Sports Day on Saturday November 7 in Taipei.

Diocese of Taiwan and Diocese of Upper South Carolina: The Link

From 1965-71, the Diocese of Taiwan and the Diocese of Upper South Carolina (USC), USA had a companion diocese relationship, led by their respective bishops, Bishop James Wong (Bishop of Taiwan 1965-70) and Bishop John Pinckney (Bishop of Upper South Carolina 1963-72).

Bishop Andrew Waldo, current

Bishop of USC, visited Taiwan as part of the House of Bishops Fall Meeting in September 2014. In the past few months, he has kindly sent relevant archive material to the Diocese of Taiwan, including almost 100 photos and an 18-page interim report produced in 1968 by the Diocese of USC, Division of World Mission, reflecting the state of the companion relationship up until then. It reports on the visit to Taiwan of a group from USC, which included Bishop Pinckney (see above photo). Their impressions and descriptions of Taiwan's scenery, culture and food, as well as reports of the different churches they visited and people they met are also included. The archive photos were mostly taken on that visit, and Bishop Lai shared this archive material at the Diocese of Taiwan Clergy Retreat, November 3-5, 2015 in Taichung.

On October 18, 2014, at the 92nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of USC, Bishop Andrew Waldo shared about his visit to Taiwan during his main convention address. The Gospel reading was from Matthew 25:14-29, the Parable of the Talents. Extracts from his convention address are given as follows.

"The Parable of the Talents in Matthew focuses especially on the obligations of those who have been granted special gifts. While this parable spends most of its time on the slave who did noth-



1960'S VISIT TO TAIWAN: INCLUDING BISHOP JOHN PINCKNEY (LEFT)
AND BISHOP JAMES WONG (CENTER)

ing with what was entrusted to him, I'm going to tell a story about a community that took the examples of the slaves who received five and two talents to heart.

I begin the story in Taiwan.

As many of you know, the House of Bishops meeting in September was held in Taipei, Taiwan. When this was first proposed

two years ago, many of us grumbled about the potential expense and wondered why Taiwan. It was pointed out to us that the Bishop of Taiwan, which is a Diocese of the Episcopal Church, had made twice-yearly trips to the United States for House of Bishops meetings for eleven years. Much more important, he wanted us both to see the work Episcopalian were doing in Asia, and for our presence to be witness and support to Christians who are in significant minorities in Asia, except in the Philippines. It turned out to have been an extremely valuable trip for all of us, especially for the Bishop of Upper South Carolina.

It began on the first day as we registered for the meeting, picking up our nametags and S.W.A.G. bags. You know, Stuff We All Get at conventions. Behind the table handing me our bags was a woman who said to me, "Oh! You're the one from Upper South Carolina! We've been so excited to meet you and so happy that you signed up for the outing to St. James' Church in Taichung. The people there can't wait to meet you!" I stood there speechless, looking around and thinking she had to be talking about somebody else. But then she went on. "You have no idea what Upper South Carolina means to us here in the Diocese of Taiwan, and especially at St. James." I had not heard of any past relationship Upper South Carolina had had with Taiwan, but now I was really

interested and when I got home, my staff went into the diocesan archives and pulled out a stack of records. Bob Riegel, Retired Cathedral Canon Pastor, is the only person I've heard of so far who remembers that companion relationship, though I'm sure a little digging around will uncover several others.

It turns out that we had an official companion relationship with the Diocese of Taiwan from 1965-1971. 30 parishes across this Diocese supported our companion churches in Taiwan at a time when Taiwan was economically depressed and poverty rates were high. The giving from our congregations totaled well more than \$100,000, which was equivalent to about \$650,000 in 2014 dollars. Several churches in Taiwan were built with these monies during the term of that companion relationship.

St. James' Episcopal Church in Taichung was one of these. Over several years beginning in 1965, Christ Church, Greenville made donations totaling \$30,000 toward a building for the St. James community to worship in, to be matched by the local community. That's a little under \$200,000 in today's money. St. James broke ground, was built and consecrated in 1971, remembering the people of Upper South Carolina who had made it all possible, the plaque reading 'Glory to God to the benefit of the People. This church is built through the contribution of Christ Church in the Diocese of Upper South Carolina, USA and consecrated in April 1971 by Bishop James T. M. Pong.' And they had a mission plan from the beginning – to bear witness to the Gospel, to serve and support others beyond themselves, and to teach. Buying the building next door, they began a preschool in 1974. By 1991 they had turned the building next door into a nine-story complex, creating an attractive courtyard in between. St. James attained parish status in 1996, and after considerable missional focus and development

they built an adjacent eight-story building for the preschool and counseling center in 2007. Today, that preschool has 35 staff and 340 students (aged 3-6) in 9 graduate classes, 6 middle classes and 3 infant classes.



BISHOP ANDREW WALDO AND HIS WIFE, MARY AT
THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS,
TAIWAN, SEPTEMBER 2014

By 1991, the whole Episcopal Church was participating in the Anglican Communion-wide "Decade of Evangelism," called for by the Lambeth Conference of 1988. Reflecting with deep gratitude for the blessings God had entrusted to them and for the generosity of Christ Church, Greenville that had given them their start, the people of St. James took this Decade of Evangelism very seriously. In 1997, they formed a companion relationship with the Diocese of Central Philippines. Here is how they invested the gifts, the talents God had given them so many years before: They learned that Bishop Botengan of the Diocese of Central Philippines had a community that worshiped under a mango tree, so in 1999 they built him a church. In 2002, in the same province of the diocese, Nueva Ecija, the congregation of St. David of Wales was developing a medical

and dental mission in a cramped space. So they built them a bigger space. At the same time, they built a church for St. Mark's in San Jose. Those two churches were consecrated on two consecutive days in December 2002. In 2004, the people of St. James, Taichung learned about St. Paul's Church in Donya Josefa being infested with termites. They built a new building.

Now, in case you're wondering, I'm just getting warmed up here! In 2005, the people of St. James built Holy Innocents' Church in Bendita in the Province of Cavite and also St. James' Church in San Ysiro. In 2006, Church of Christ the Lord in Lemery was washed away by a typhoon... so they built a new one. In 2010, they built Church of the



BISHOP ANDREW WALDO AND HIS WIFE MARY (CENTER) VISIT ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG, SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 WITH REV. CHARLES C. T. CHEN AND MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES' CHURCH

Holy Carpenter in a village called Paradise. They also built Church of the Epiphany in Occidental Mindoro and Church of the Ascension in Bulay for local indigenous communities. And to complete 2010 with a fourth building project, they built Church of the Divine Grace on the Island of Palawan. Not being ones to get weary, in 2012 they connected with St. Gregory's in Cogeo, and gave them a new worship space.

Since returning from Taiwan, I've been keeping this story kind of secret in order to share it with you today. But I have told a dozen or so people about it, mostly from outside the diocese. Each time, I've asked the same question after telling of St. James' stewardship. I've asked, "If you were to take a wild guess, what do you think the average Sunday attendance is at St. James, Taichung?" The answers have ranged from as low as 200 to as high as 2,000. The real answer? At the English-speaking service, the average Sunday attendance is 30. At the Chinese service, it is 70. 100 people on a Sunday morning have done all this.

What I can't stress enough was this: over and over and over again, members of St. James thanked God profusely in prayers for something we did some 45 years ago and that so far only Bob Riegel remembers! With spirit-filled joy, they spoke to all of us bishops and spouses of God's hand in the stewardship to which God had called them.

The Rev. Charles C. T. Chen was the rector of St. James during much of the evangelism and church-planting work done by St. James. He has since retired to Dallas, Texas, but upon hearing that I would be attending this House of Bishops meeting, flew back across the Pacific to Taiwan just so he could meet me.

There are a couple of asides I want to tell you about. On the day of our field trip to St. James, I had a feeling I ought to be "dressed out" for the game, as it were, and was the only bishop out of forty wearing my clericals. At the end of the PowerPoint presentation, they showed a slide of me ready for a 'Q and A' session, another surprise for someone who had had nothing whatever to do with the work they'd accomplished. And then they asked me to pronounce the blessing on the gathered bishops and spouses at the end of the presentation. Immediately following, we toured the facility where I met some of the preschool children. We then went across the street to the Taiwan Art Museum where the Curator presented each of us with a gift of prints of works in their collection. Being in uniform, I was asked to symbolically receive the gift. By now my bishop colleagues were beginning to rib me a little for getting so much attention. But they were also in awe of the stewardship story we were hearing.

We left the museum to have lunch together at a nearby restaurant, at which the mayor of Taichung, Jason Hu, was to greet us (see photo on page 7). We

all sat down and he welcomed us and spoke of his ongoing campaign for re-election as mayor, checking, as a politician would, to see if any of us happened to be eligible and registered to vote in Taiwan. As he was speaking, Bishop David Lai of Taiwan came up to me again and whispered, "You know, since you're dressed for the part, you should do the table blessing." I quietly protested, thinking there were plenty of other "blessers" available in the room. He smiled, insisted and nodded his head, so I smiled back, stood up and went over to Mayor Hu, accompanied by some chuckling in the room. He greeted me personally, and I was astonished when he said he had lived in Columbia for a year.

It should be self-evident why, during a stewardship-themed convention, I would take so much time to tell this story. It's all about the Holy Spirit and gratitude, both of which radiated in abundance from all the Episcopalians we met. This story reminds us how much we can do with the gifts God has given us when we accept what has been entrusted to us. It reminds us of

what it means to give with no certain knowledge of what will be done with what we've given. In the same Spirit, God has given us gifts and entrusted us to make more of them.

The story I've just told you about St. James' Church, Taichung is about a people who, whatever obstacles and challenges they've encountered, are reconciled to one another in and because of Christ Jesus, who "loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God." Reconciliation with each other empowers the people of St. James and all of us for ministries of evangelism and service.



BISHOP ANDREW WALDO AND MAYOR JASON HU

If one modest-sized Christian community can offer so much to so many on behalf of Christ, it begs the exciting question about what some 65+ congregations and institutions in this diocese, compelled by gratitude, might do with the gifts entrusted to us. All of it starts with our stewardship of the love we've been given by God in Christ Jesus — reconciling with each other in gratitude for that gift, whatever our differences, and serving the world for which Jesus gave his life.

St. James' Church in Taichung was but one consequence of our companion diocese efforts in the late 1960's and early 1970's. For example, Trinity Cathedral built St. Mark's Church in Pingtung, southern Taiwan.

Several Upper South Carolina congregations worked together to build a rectory and parish house in Tainan, Good Shepherd Church in Taipei and medical clinics in southern Taiwan.

The Church in Taiwan is thriving in part because we as a Diocese trusted God's call and because the people of that Diocese were faithful stewards of what they were given. We are a part of their

common life in ways of which few of us had any idea. In this Diocese, we have been blessed with gifts abundant beyond the imagining of many. We have been entrusted as stewards of one another and of the world we meet each day. We are stewards of the new creation made possible only because God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him would not perish, but have eternal life."

CCEA 'Council of Churches in East Asia' Full Assembly

October 7-12, 2015, Manila, The Philippines

Report by Diocese of Taiwan Youth Delegate, Mr. Stoney Wu Chia-Kuei

It was a great honor to be the youth delegate from the Diocese of Taiwan to the CCEA Full Assembly, held in the Philippines capital of Manila, from October 7-12, 2015. Before my departure, I did not really know what to expect from an international conference, but I have had opportunities to go abroad before, such as a short-term mission trip and a seminar of Christian Universities, so fortunately I didn't feel nervous.

"Behold, I make all things new..." (Revelation 21:5) was the theme of the CCEA Full Assembly. There were three main topics for presentation and discussion, 1) Poverty 2) Migration & Human Trafficking 3) Handling of Conflict.

Although we were talking about three different subjects, we all felt that the most important thing in all 3 cases was national policy. Churches put 100% effort into caring for the vulnerable through community service, but a long-term national policy is the key to having the most influence. When we talk about faith and politics, lots of people feel uncomfortable, but we all understand an important truth, that unity in the Spirit is vital. If a whole nation of people lift up their eyes to Jesus Christ and share love with each other, our problems will be solved.

The conference participants were divided into four groups: Bishops, Clergy, Lay, and Youth. The four groups discussed and shared with each other on the different topics. Participants came from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Australia. All of these countries prepared related briefings to share at the conference. In the youth section, we listened systematically to the timetable and plans for the CCEA Youth Forum in 2016. The purpose of the Youth Forum will be to gather young people from different dioceses in CCEA, and to learn together about the Anglican Communion, the five marks of mission and arrange mission exposure trips. It will also be a chance for everyone to share different experiences by leaving our comfort zones to understand cultural differences, and then bring our cultural experiences back to share with those at home. It is an important reminder that we are not alone, and that we are part of a large group of people with the same faith and willingness to work for God around the world.



DIOCESE OF TAIWAN DELEGATES TO THE CCEA FULL ASSEMBLY: FROM RIGHT TO LEFT:
MR. STONEY WU, REV. CHENG CHEN-CHANG, BISHOP
AND MRS. LILY LAI, MRS. AMY LIN

Outside the meetings, the most relaxing and interactive times were meal times. At this moment no matter which group you were in or where you were sitting on the table, everyone was freely chatting about many topics, just like in church gatherings that are friendly and with no sense of distance. Although we knew that a certain person was a delegate of another group, such as clergy, bishops or lay, in fact there was no class distinction of any kind; instead we understood each other as friends of different nationalities.

After all the discussion and sharing, the main things I learned are as follows:

1. Regional Characteristics

Different countries have their own features, like national character, resources and culture and it is impossible to use exactly the same kind of ministry to target two different countries. Even in Taiwan, basically we have four regions: North, South, East and West. I come from the north of Taiwan, where the pace of life is very fast and fussy. But these habits and concepts became useless when I moved to Kaohsiung this past June. I needed to learn the new pace of life in the south of Taiwan that can make a fellowship within the region.

2. The impact of history

The colonial history of many places had a big effect not only on the buildings, art etc but also on faith. The church statistics of Hong Kong and Australia made a deep impression on me. Hong Kong is smaller than Taiwan, but they have three dioceses. Australia has 61% Christians and 17% belong to the Anglican Church. Both were former British colonies. The seeds of faith continue to be planted. After I saw the 61% rate of Australia, I posted a photo with the caption, "We need to work very hard in Taiwan!" on Facebook.

3. Unity

"Unity" is the most important. Besides prayer, every ministry needs to have their church co-workers connecting with each other in God. We need to pray for understanding and go in the same direction. I believe everyone in the church would like to share the Gospel, but it's hard to decide how to do it. More respect, more listening, following and supporting the head of the ministry work would be the best solution.

Conclusion:

During the 5 days of the gathering, we worshiped together every day, shared in the Eucharist together,



CCEA BISHOPS

and started each day by listening to the Word of God. That was wonderful.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to those in CCEA who organized the conference. During this time I saw different cultural characteristics and everything in the schedule was in good order. I would like to thank the hosts of the meeting in Manila who gave us such warm hospitality, and planned a wonderful trip after the conference and gave us gifts to bring back home for sharing. They arranged for our group from Taiwan to visit St. Stephen's Pro-Cathedral to participate in the Sunday Service. The language used was Amoy/Hokkien, and that gave us a special friendly feeling. I would especially like to thank Bishop Lai for letting me participate in CCEA as the youth delegate. Going abroad for looking, listening and learning is a valuable experience, and

a great way to learn to be a more humble servant of the Lord. Finally I would like to thank God for his peace and for giving us His blessing during the CCEA Full Assembly in 2015.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen.



CCEA YOUTH DELEGATES

The Installation of Bishop Michael B. Curry as 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

By Mr. Richard Hu 胡保生, Chair of the Diocese of Taiwan Standing Committee

As a deputy from the Diocese of Taiwan to the General Convention in Salt Lake City during this past summer, I received an invitation from the Chair of the Presiding Bishop Transition Committee, inviting me to attend the Installation of Bishop Michael B. Curry as the 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church on All Saints Day, November 1, 2015, at Washington National Cathedral, USA.

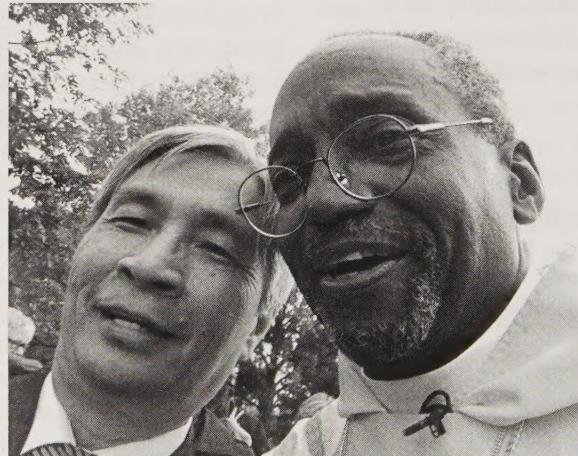
I reported to Bishop Lai that I was planning to attend the installation and had already requested a ticket. Because Bishop Lai was unable to be there himself, he was happy to assign me to be the representative of the Diocese of Taiwan. Bishop Lai also assigned me the task of presenting 2 gifts to Bishop Curry and delivering greetings from Taiwan.

The gifts were one pack of Chinese Tea and a stamp of Bishop Curry's newly-chosen Chinese name. The Chinese name was chosen by Canon Chancellor Herbert H. P. Ma, who also wrote a letter of explanation, as follows: 孔 Kong, the surname, based on 'Curry' in sound. 茂 Mao, the given name, based on Michael in sound, and 功 Gong, meaning rich (茂) in contribution (功). The Chinese given name "Mao Gong" means in this case "a person rich in contribution to the church."

I landed at Dulles Airport in the late afternoon of October 31. When I arrived at the hotel, I found hundreds of bishops and priests already there. On



WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



MR. RICHARD HU TAKES A SELFIE WITH NEWLY-INSTALLED PRESIDING BISHOP MICHAEL CURRY!

November 1, I decided to walk to the National Cathedral. The cathedral is located on top of a hill, and I walked all the way up, enjoying the fall colors.

About 2,500 people were at the service and everybody was so happy and cheerful. The procession was very long, very vivacious and very colorful! When we were sprinkled with holy water, Bishop Curry looked like a naughty boy trying to wet everyone! In his sermon, he

delivered a very clear message "to join the Jesus movement" and encouraged us to "Don't worry, be happy!" The service of 3 hours encompassed the traditions of church and variegated panoplies of music, drumming, dancing and cultures. After the service I got an opportunity to meet Bishop Curry. I presented him with our gifts and greetings. He gave me a warm handshake with two hands and treated me like an old friend. He appreciated and thanked me for our hospitality and asked me to say hello to Bishop Lai and Taiwan. For the evidence that I attended this important movement, I took a picture with him. Because there was a long queue behind me, we did-

n't have a long time to chat, but he gave me his blessing and we said goodbye to each other.

It was a short trip but one I will never forget all my life!

Diocese of Taiwan Family Trip to 馬祖 Matsu Islands, November 10-13, 2015

By Catherine Lee



DIOCESE OF TAIWAN FAMILY TRIP TO MATSU 2015

Every year in mid-November, the Diocese of Taiwan Seniors Group and ECW (Episcopal Church Women) organize a 3-day trip to visit a scenic area of Taiwan, and they welcome everyone to participate, including friends and family who are not necessarily church members. Last year 2014, the group visited Kinmen, outlying islands west of Taiwan located close to Mainland China. After the success of that trip, this year's trip was to visit the Matsu Islands, 100-120 miles NW of Taiwan, and at the nearest point, only 5 miles from Mainland China.

Matsu consists of 5 main islands, and we visited 3 of them. Like Kinmen, the Matsu Islands are highly militarized, but originally inhabited only by fishermen and pirates. Throughout the 1950's and 60's they were on the frontline of the Cold War, with a number of fatal sea and air battles and bombardments. At its peak, there were 50,000 soldiers stationed on Matsu. Troops were on alert at all times for long afterwards, and it was only in 1992 that a civilian administration took over the islands from the military.

Today there are about 3,000 troops stationed on Matsu, spread over all the islands, but most of the military buildings and equipment from the Cold War era remains, some of it still in use but much of it now either open to tourists, or lying derelict. Ma-

tsu lays claim to being the most 'tunnel-laden' island in the world. Tunnel 88, completed on the 88th birthday of Chiang Kai-Shek in 1974, is now used for storing Kaoliang Liquor, which is a main industry of Matsu. Beihai Tunnel is the largest, originally used for protecting military boats, but now open to the public.

On Tuesday November 10, a group of 36 of us gathered at Taipei Songshan Airport, including Bishop Lai and his wife, Lily. 18 of the group were from St. John's Cathedral, 8 from Advent Church, including Rev. Lennon Chang and his wife, Hannah, and the rest were from southern Taiwan. Our excellent tour guide was one of our church members from St. Mark's Church, Pingtung, Ms. Jude Chu.

The flight to Matsu's largest island of Nangan 南竿 took only 50 minutes, and we spent the first day on Nangan, sightseeing around the island in the clouds and drizzle, visiting military establishments now open to the public, scenic spots and famous landmarks. We also got a chance to take boats deep into the Beihai Tunnel (see top right photo, page 12), which had been flooded during Typhoon Dujuan at the end of September, and so none of the electric lights were working. As it was pitch black, we had the chance to see the 'blue tears' of Matsu, tiny creatures living in the water which give off a blue



CHINBI 芹壁村, BEIGAN



BEIHAI TUNNEL, NANGAN

fluorescence when disturbed. That evening, we had a short service led by Bishop Lai, and a sermon from Rev. Lennon Chang, followed by drinking tea together, sharing about our experiences of the day.

On the second day we went by boat for the 40-minute ride to the most southerly island in Matsu, Dongju 東莒 where we saw the famous Dongguan Lighthouse 東犬燈塔. The weather stayed mostly dry but chilly. Dongju is a tiny island with a population of only 150, plus 70 military personnel. After our visit there, we moved onto the second-largest island of Beigan 北竿 for our second night. Although there are no Episcopal Churches on Matsu,

there are several Methodist Churches, and in Beigan we were pleased to meet the lady pastor and hear about the ministry there.

Beigan's remote village of Chinbi 芹壁村(see top left photo) is considered to have the best-preserved eastern Fujian-style buildings in all of Matsu. Even though the weather was not so good, we all enjoyed spending the morning there. There is also an excellent War and Peace Memorial Park in Beigan which displays the tragic military history of Matsu. It is near there also that we caught a glimpse of the islands not far offshore where the famous Chinese Crested Terns nest in the summer. They are so rare that they were thought to be extinct, but then 4 pairs were discovered in 2000 nesting in amongst other tern species.

In the afternoon we headed to Beigan Airport for our flight back to Taipei. There are only 3 flights a day into and out of Beigan Airport, all to Taipei. The early morning flight had been cancelled due to fog. We were hopeful that ours would be OK, but it turned out to be not so. At 3:30pm, they announced ours was cancelled too. Oh no!

And so on Thursday afternoon at 4:30pm we found ourselves on the



GROUP PHOTO AT DONGUAN LIGHTHOUSE, DONGJU



THE TAI-MA BOAT FROM MATSU TO KEELUNG

boat again back to Nangan. Even if the next day's flights were to be flying OK, our group of 36 had no way of getting seats at such short notice, so the only way back to Taiwan was by the Tai-Ma Ferry. We stayed an extra night in Nangan in the same guest house as the first night, and spent the evening sharing as a group about our visit to Matsu. An extra evening, extra blessing, and more tea-drinking too! It was fascinating to listen to Mr. Yang, our diocesan secretary, sharing about his visits to Matsu when he was in the military all those years ago. This was his first visit back since those days.

The next morning, Friday, and the sun came out for the first time, the sky and sea were both blue and for

the first time it was very warm. The clouds lifted, and in the distance we could even catch a glimpse of Mainland China, so close, but until now hidden under the low clouds. The Tai-Ma boat can take vehicles as well as up to 500 people, and left at 11:30am, giving us glorious views of the Taiwan Straits, and as we drew closer, the whole of the northern coast of Taiwan. We arrived in Keelung at 7:30pm that evening, thankful for a wonderful trip.

It was indeed a trip full of God's many blessings, and we were especially thankful for such beautiful scenery and for sweet fellowship with each other.

IN MATSU: DRINKING TEA WITH BISHOP LAI



Ordination and Consecration of George R. Sumner as 7th Bishop of Dallas

By Rev. Charles C. T. Chen



FAREWELL PARTY IN TORONTO, 3 CLERGY AND THEIR WIVES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT,
REV. EDMUND AND MRS. DER, REV. GEORGE AND MRS. SUMNER, REV. CHARLES AND MRS. CHEN

It was a great opportunity for my wife Mary Jo, daughter Sarah and I, to have the privilege to attend the Ordination and Consecration of the Rev. Canon Dr. George R. Sumner as the 7th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas on Saturday, November 14 at 11:00 am at First United Methodist Church, Dallas, USA.

What a big surprise it was when I received an email from Bishop Lai inviting me to attend and participate in the consecration on his behalf. It was quite amazing and coincidental that my wife and I had just returned from visiting our old friends, Rev. Canon and Mrs. Edmund Der in Toronto. Rev. Edmund Der is a former Board Member and 2 of their sons graduated from seminary at Wycliffe College, Toronto, and while we were visiting them, we had the opportunity to attend the farewell party of the Dean, Rev. Canon Dr. George R. Sumner, who was leaving Wycliffe to become the new Bishop of Dallas. We were so pleased and honored to meet the Bishop Elect on that occasion, but had no idea that we would be meeting him again so soon, at his consecration!

It is interesting to mention that at the 78th General Convention in Salt Lake City, in July, the delegations from the Dioceses of Taiwan and Dallas were

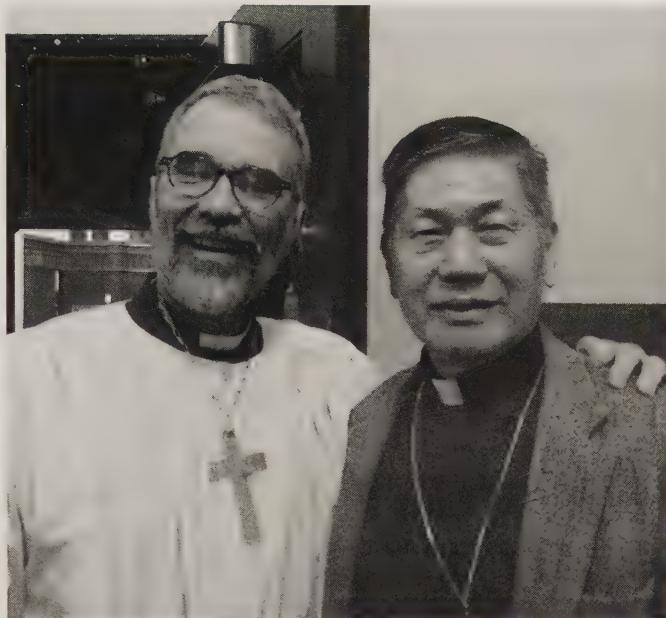
sitting on neighboring tables. Whenever there was a group discussion, our 2 dioceses were in the same group. So our delegations already knew each other, and this fact was mentioned to me by Rev. Canon Victoria Heard as we prepared for the Consecration Service. So it is especially meaningful that I could have the chance to attend and participate in the service on behalf of the Diocese of Taiwan.

I was so pleased that in the arranged seating at the consecration, on my left side was Rev. Kathryn Greene-McCreight, author of the book 'Darkness Is My Only Companion' (which has been translated into Mandarin and published in Taiwan). On my right side was the Auxiliary R. C. Bishop of Dallas, Douglas Deshotel. In fact, my seating position was very centrally located near the front, enabling me to see all the service so clearly and vividly. Behind us were all the diocesan clergy. I felt a great sense of belonging, and quite at home. Since my retirement, my wife and I have spent several months each year staying with our daughter Sarah and her family, who live only 10-minutes' drive from St. Philip's Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Dallas.

The Dean of St. Matthew's Cathedral, Dallas, the Very Rev. Dr. Neal Michell kindly lent me an alb and a red stole for the occasion. He assisted me in

every way and helped me to feel relaxed. The Interim (Suffragan) Bishop Paul Lambert specially came over to say some words of welcome to me. I am very grateful to them both, and also to the new Bishop of Dallas, Bishop George. He was so accessible, affable and loving; and warmly welcomed me as the representative of Taiwan, on behalf of Bishop Lai. I am only sorry that I was not able to stay on to attend the events following the service, and the installation the following day.

The Ordination and Consecration Service lasted for 2½ hours, with more than 30 bishops taking part in this grand and significant ceremony, and about 2,000 lay and clergy participants in the congregation. The service from the beginning to the end was



BISHOP GEORGE SUMNER (LEFT)
AND REV. CHARLES C. T. CHEN (RIGHT)

marked by a holy atmosphere, very inspiring and joyful! The preacher at the service was the Rt. Rev. Stephen Andrews, Bishop of the Diocese of Algoma in Canada. His wonderful preaching won lots of admiration, and gave us much inspiration and challenge!

Finally, the Pontifical Blessing was given by Bishop George. Red banners were raised and flew from all corners of the upper balcony of the church, ac-

companied by a marvelous band of trumpets, harmonized with the wonderful celestial choir music. It symbolized the victorious joy and the hope of resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, who has conquered the deep valley of sin and death, being the Lord of Lords, Alleluia!



CONSECRATION SERVICE

Church Placement in Anglican Liturgical Music, Los Angeles, California

Ms. Joanna Fu 傅麗萍, Organist, St. John's Cathedral, Taipei

As the organist of St. John's Cathedral, Taipei, I had the privilege of spending 3 months, from September 1 to November 29, 2015, at the Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel, Los Angeles, USA learning and practicing Anglican Liturgical Music (photos here show me at the magnificent Our Saviour organ). This was originally the vision of our retired dean, Rev. Michael Liou, and it was he who pursued the idea and helped it to become a reality. Indeed it was a very wonderful opportunity for me. I was brought up and married in St. James' Episcopal Church, Taichung and I graduated in Church Music from Taiwan Theological College, run by the Presbyterian Church. In Taiwan there is no formal training school or college for church organists, and most professional organists in Taiwan have trained overseas. Although I learned a lot about church music at the college, I had no opportunity to learn traditional Anglican liturgical music, and never really learned how to use a pipe organ to its fullest extent. Until a few years ago, St. John's Cathedral had only an electronic organ for use in worship; now it has a beautiful new pipe organ. My training and experience were really insufficient to make the most of the new pipe organ, so this opportunity to spend 3 months in the USA was a wonderful chance for me to develop my skills and learn some new ones.



I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Canon Peter Ng, Asia-Pacific Officer of The Episcopal Church, for making the arrangements, and to the clergy and staff at the Church of Our Saviour, Rev. Gary Bradley, Rector, the Rev. Ada Wong-Nagata, Associate Rector, and Canon Philip Smith, Minister of Music and Organist (shown here with me in the middle photo). I really thank the Lord that everything worked out so well!

When I first arrived in LA, Ada kindly welcomed me to stay at her home for a week, to adapt to my new life. I arrived in September when the weather was very hot. It is difficult to imagine that it could be hotter than Taiwan, but the good thing was that LA has a dry desert climate, not a hot and humid one like Taiwan. After the first week, I then moved to live with the rector, Rev. Gary Bradley and his wife, Rev. Peg Bradley, in their home right next to the church. They were so kind to me, and welcomed me as part of their family. They gave me use of their kitchen, laundry and all other facilities, which really gave me great peace of mind. Being so near the church meant that I could easily participate in all the church activities, including the choir practice and worship, and it was also easy for me to get out and about to the local shops.

Ada kindly arranged for me to participate in worship not only at the Church of Our Saviour, but also to experience worship

in other Episcopal churches in the LA area. I visited St. Matthew's, Pasadena All Saints, St. James Church, and St. John's Church, and had the opportunity to take part in different services such as evensong and compline. Compline was a new experience for me, I loved the atmosphere. All the lights were replaced with candles, and we were invited to listen to the choir. The choir was a cappella; their plainsong chants were really a great enjoyment to listen to in the beautiful soft lighting. It was so wonderful to praise God in this way!

Twice a week, I had the honor of having an individual organ class with the Minister of Music and Organist at the Church of Our Saviour, Canon Philip Smith. He is also Conservator of the Organ at the Walt Disney Concert Hall and Dean of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO); he kindly took me to attend the LA AGO dinner and concert at the Disney Hall, plus the orchestra rehearsal and presentations, as well as private organ recitals.

I was very impressed with the amount of coordination, planning and preparation that went into each worship service at the Church of Our Saviour. I was privileged to witness Philip's great humility in his ministry; he really is a faithful servant of the Lord. In my twice weekly classes, Phil taught me how to play the psalms, plainsong, chants, canticles and

WITH CANON PHILIP SMITH AT THE WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL, LOS ANGELES



WITH REV. GARY BRADLEY, HIS WIFE PEG AND GRANDCHILDREN



WITH REV. ADA WONG-NAGATA, ORGANIST CANON PHILIP SMITH AND CHOIR OF OUR SAVIOR CHURCH

anthems, and especially how to use the organ flutes and different organ stops. He also gave me the opportunity to play for the Sunday worship and in choir practice. I learned about how important unity is in the worship service; the choir, conductor and organist need to play and sing completely in harmony, to lead people's hearts more deeply into devotion and worship.

I really appreciated the warmth of the California sunshine, and even more, the warmth of the lovely people. I came to feel very much a part of the choir family. I am full of gratitude to Rev. Gary Bradley and Peg, to Sarah and her family, to Phil, Ada and Ronnie, Alvin, Lisa, and all those in the choir. I am especially grateful to Almighty God, for His grace and salvation. He protects us through every storm, and walks with us so that we never need to feel lonely. I thank Him for the strength he gives me and the

mercy he shows me. My time in the USA was one of great mercy, grace and blessing, and I very much appreciate the opportunity that was given to me.

To God be the glory!

Bishop James T. M. Pong Memorial Conference Room Dedication Service St. Andrew's Day, November 30, 2015

As a memorial to their father's service to the Episcopal Diocese of Taiwan as Bishop from 1971-1979, David and Rachel made a donation to the Diocese, which goes into the conversion of parts of the Friendship House into the new Diocesan Conference Room. It was dedicated as the "Bishop James T. M. Pong Memorial Conference Room" on St. Andrew's Day, November 30, 2015. David, his wife, Barbara, and sister, Rachel attended the dedication service, officiated by Bishop David J. H. Lai. Canon Chancellor, Professor Herbert H. P. Ma paid tribute to the late Bishop Pong with a fine, personal note. Bishop Lai preached, and both David and Rachel also made remarks.

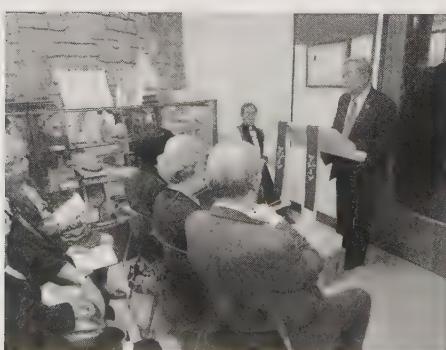
Photos taken on the occasion are shown here, including the group photo, above right.



PROF. DAVID PONG, MRS. BARBARA PONG, AND MS. RACHEL PONG WITH CANON CHANCELLOR HERBERT MA AND MRS. ALINE MA



THE PONG FAMILY WITH DIOCESAN HISTORIAN, PROFESSOR MEI-MEI LIN (WHO WROTE AN ACADEMIC PAPER ON BISHOP JAMES T. M. PONG FOR THE OCCASION)



SPEAKERS : LEFT TO RIGHT: PROF. DAVID PONG, CANON CHANCELLOR HERBERT MA, MS. RACHEL PONG

Reminiscences about the Rt. Rev. James Pong, Bishop of Taiwan, 1971-1979, at the Dedication of the Diocesan Conference Room in his Memory, 30th Nov. 2015, by his son, David Pong, Professor and Master of Choi Kai Yau College, University of Macau

"What was your reaction when you heard that your father was nominated the Bishop of Taiwan in 1970?" the Rt. Rev. David J. H. Lai, the current Bishop of Taiwan, asked. "A bit surprised," was my reply. The Republic of China was not having an easy time in the international scene in late 1970. Soon it was to lose its seat on the Security Council of the United Nations. As the sole representative of Taiwan in the Anglican Communion, the bishop will no doubt face repercussions whose nature was not yet known. But then, if I had thought more deeply, I should not have been so surprised. Long before he was to become a servant of the Lord, my father, out of patriotism, had chosen to study in a Chinese university rather than one in the British Colony of Hong Kong – for which, I must add, he was well qualified. And when it came time for him to choose a major, he studied government, with the view to pursue a diplomatic career, to serve his country. Serving his country, albeit in the capacity of a shepherd of the church, was perhaps not such a big surprise.

My surprise was also misplaced in one other way. Throughout much of the 1960s, my father was the Regional Officer for the Anglican Church in Southeast Asia. He travelled widely and became increasingly familiar with the larger issues the church faced in a regional context, if not a global one. The appointment of the Rt. Rev. James Chang-ling Wong as the first ethnic Chinese Bishop of Taiwan in 1965 was itself a church's response to one of the issues: indigenization of church leadership in the Anglican world. My father's appointment five years later was a reaffirmation of this principle, an emphatic statement that there was no turning back.

Truth be told, my father was not a born leader.



BISHOP JAMES T. M. PONG



Though he had strong beliefs and convictions, his mild manners and unassuming posture projected a certain image in the eyes of the beholder. When he decided to keep his hair short – some sort of a failed crew cut – he looked much younger than he was. In 1953, while studying at St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, he was fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to attend the Queen's Coronation at Westminster Abbey. As he traversed the long walk towards the Abbey, he had to be reminded to hold his head up, as he should have! In the early 1950s, he was the dean of Chungchi College, which was created out of the ashes of the thirteen Christian universities supported by the Associated Board for Christian Colleges in China on the mainland. Once he paid a visit to some important person and the receptionist treated him as a messenger boy – a story he loved to tell.

To me, my father was modest to a fault. But there is no way he could hide his talents for long. His command of the English language was superb among Chinese in his generation. This calls for no surprise, really. He was dux three years in a row before he graduated from St. Paul's College, one of Hong Kong's best "Anglo-Chinese" schools. Four years at St. John's University, Shanghai, whose graduates uniformly excelled in the English language, did not hurt, either. But his two years in England definitely put the finishing touch to his language skills. E.G. Stewart, one time Headmaster of St. Paul's once confessed that he would love to have my father teach at his school – he was one of the few people he knew who could grade an English essay in 2 minutes.

Unfortunately, his command of the English Language did not translate into Mandarin Chinese! As

they say jokingly, his pu-t'ung-hua is truly bu pu-t'ung! [His "common tongue", i.e., Mandarin Chinese, is truly uncommon!] I am sure our friends in Taiwan have many jokes about his Mandarin. Most probably he would have done a better job at communicating had his Mandarin been more fluent. What he lacked in Mandarin Chinese was more than made up for by his strong English skills. It enabled him to work effectively with the Episcopal Headquarters at 815 Second Avenue in New York. The ease with which he interacted with foreign visitors must have been admired by and a source of inspiration for those

who came into contact with him. It certainly made it easier for him to encourage younger servants of God to travel across the oceans in search of advanced theological training, to enrich their pastoral experience and improve their English along the way.

Whatever one could say about my father's Mandarin or English, no one could deny his infectious sense of humour, not only in Cantonese or English, but also in Mandarin. His ability to laugh at himself was one of his greatest assets. His sense of humour had helped him through sticky situations, public and private, and brought laughter in speeches, sermons, and social gatherings.

There is no question that his overseas experience influenced him deeply. As an assistant curate in a modest parish in Hull, Yorkshire, he was profoundly affected by the hard life among the population of this coastal English city. Visiting parishioners was a main part of his job. He must have visited hundreds of homes in his thirteen months at Hull. He learned so much about English life, but he also learned how important it is if the priests actually did the visiting.

Living among ordinary working people in Hull taught him a lot about daily life in post-War England, values among common working folks, their anxieties, their hopes, and what the Church could do for them. The sojourn at Hull left an indelible mark on him, and sharpened his awareness of the plight



BISHOP JAMES PONG
AND MRS. LILY PONG

of the underprivileged. In 1961, some years after he had returned to Hong Kong, Princess Alexandra gave an address at the opening of a social services centre in the New Territories, calling for better welfare benefits for the people of Hong Kong. Seizing the moment, my father delivered a sermon at St. John's Cathedral the following Sunday and raised similar issues about the lack of medical benefits, unemployment insurance, and old age pensions for the laboring masses. This voice from the pulpit resonated with certain opinion-leaders of the Colony, and was editorialized in the *China Mail*, an

authoritative English-language newspaper in Hong Kong. Soon after, the Hong Kong government introduced legislations providing for paid sick leaves and paid vacation for the teeming factory workers of Hong Kong.

Of my father's work on Taiwan, I must defer to people who worked in close proximity to him in that phase of his life, people who laboured alongside him as servants of the Lord. This aside, if I were to sum up his life in a brief few words, I would say that he was one who made a serious attempt at understanding the meaning of the Gospels in the context of the real world. "Why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" (St. Luke 12:56) was the question always on his mind. Sometimes, he would sound rather intellectual, somewhat idealistic, yet, when all is said and done, his object was to apply the Christian message in a human situation, to bring about the Kingdom of God on earth.

For a formal but short biography in English, please go to https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Pong

And for a biographical sketch in Chinese, see <http://www.laijohn.com/archives/pc/Pang/Pang,Tbeng/biog.htm>

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAMSUI

Chaplain: Rev. Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師

ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI

Rev. Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師 Rev. Wu Shing-Shiang 吳興祥牧師

In mid-December the good news came through that finally the new Advent Church Center (see photo right) has been granted its Occupancy Permit by the local government, meaning that we can now officially use the building and start work on the interior fittings. This will take 3-4 months, and we hope that the whole work can be completed in time for the SJU Celebration weekend at the end of April. Already we have many plans for using the new building, including cooperating with the nearby Presbyterian Shuang-Lien Elderly Center to start a day center for local seniors, at first on a part-time basis. The university is opening a new department offering classes in caring for old people, in cooperation with Shuang-Lien, and this is an extension of that work.

We were pleased to welcome Rev. Canon Edmund Der 謝博文法政牧師 and his wife Margaret, Mrs. Chee Ming Lee to visit St. John's University on December 5 (see photo below). Rev. Edmund Der was Vice-President of St. John's and St. Mary's Institute of Technology (SJSMIT) from 1972-76. They visited President Chen Jean-Lien and met up with friends past and present, especially Mr. Andrew Chang, former president of SJSMIT. Now nearly 80, Edmund and Margaret live in Toronto,



Canada, but continue helping in the Chinese churches in the Toronto area. Their visit to Taiwan was part of a trip to Asia, mainly to visit their son, the Very Rev. Matthias Der, Dean of St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong and his family.

After 8 years at the helm, SJU President Chen's term as SJU President finishes in July 2016. A Search Committee has been formed to find a new president. The challenges are many, particularly the Taiwan-wide problem of too many universities and too few students.

From September 21 to October 23, 2015, our Advent Church member, Mr. Chen Ming-Bang 陳明邦 held a Thanksgiving Art Exhibition of over 60 of his paintings, at the 11th floor Art Gallery of the China University of Science and Technology, Nangang, Taipei (see top photo on page 22 of Mr. Chen and his wife at the grand opening, together with the congratulatory flowers sent by Advent Church). Mr. Chen has had a very distinguished career in the civil service, including as Founding Director of the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office. All Mr. Chen's friends, former colleagues and VIPs from different government departments attended the grand opening on September 21, along with clergy and church members from the dio-



REV. CANON EDMUND DER (SECOND LEFT)
AND MRS. MARGARET DER (RIGHT)
WITH SJU PRESIDENT CHEN (SECOND RIGHT)
AND ALUMNUS MR. EDDY TORNG (LEFT)

cese. Bishop Lai gave a prayer of blessing. Special guest of honor was former vice-president of Taiwan, Vincent Siew.

During December, St. John's University and Advent Church raised a grand total of NT\$ 340,000 (US\$ 10,350) for St. Francis Home in

Toucheng, Yilan County, way beyond our expectations. Every year, on behalf of St. John's University and Advent Church, the SJU Chaplaincy organizes a bazaar and collects donations for charity, a different charity every year. This is the 18th year since Rev. Lennon Chang started the charity fund-raising project, and 2015's result is the second largest amount collected in all those 18 years. Last year, 2014, we raised NT\$ 210,000 (US\$ 6,393 / £ 4,310).

During the overseas student mission trip this past summer, Rev. Lennon Chang was moved by the sight of a Sunday School of 120 children meeting in a run-down old classroom, and in prayer felt inspired to offer to raise the funds in Taiwan to build a new classroom for them, at an estimated cost of US\$ 10,000 (about NT\$ 330,000). His idea was that this year's fund-raising project could be for the new Sunday School classroom, but this proved unrealistic, as such a donation made to an overseas charity would be taxed at 20%. Soon afterwards, he



the most amazing way.

St. Francis Home in Toucheng, Yilan is run by Sr. Betty Tsai of the Daughters of Charity, caring for elderly local people who are poor and unable to take care of themselves. When their old building was declared unfit for use by the government, they had to close down, but soon realized that many of the old people in their care were totally dependent on them, so they started fundraising, and are building a new 9-story building (see photo below left), due to be completed in May. Beyond all our expectations, this year's fund-raising efforts for the St. Francis Home also exceeded US\$ 10,000 (see photo below right of Rev. Lennon Chang being presented with the appreciation certificate from Sr. Betty Tsai). Not only has the Sunday School classroom been taken care of overseas, but St. Francis Home in Yilan has also received the same amount. Thanks be to God!



happened to meet a Christian friend, and out of the blue she asked him about his fundraising plans. Long story short, she offered to donate the US\$ 10,000 herself to build the Sunday School classroom, and completely in compliance with Taiwan's tax laws. Praise God that our prayers were answered in

TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師

In our Friday morning seniors fellowship, we have 10 or more seniors, some are church members, others from outside the church, but we welcome all; our aim is to know Jesus. On October 14, we enjoyed a visit to the home of one of our members for lunch and fellowship.

We were pleased to celebrate the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Cheng on November 22 in Trinity Church.

On Saturday December 19, we had a combined Christmas Celebration for the children in our Sunday School and weekend learning camp. The children also invited their parents, so we were pleased to have 60-70 in total (see photos here). We shared the Christmas story through songs and drama, in-



cluding a puppet show from our church members. We also made candy houses with the children for them to take home.

On Sunday December 27, Bishop and Mrs. Lily Lai visited Trinity Church. Some of our weekend learning camp children sang during the service, and after the service, we had a wonderful Potluck meal together.

Our morning prayer services usually attract 6-7 people each day, and we have been working our way through the Psalms. Next semester we will move onto Proverbs.



ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華牧師

On Wednesday December 2, we had a wonderful visit from a group of volunteers from the HSBC Bank. They have a voluntary group of staff who arrange activities with disadvantaged children, and so we arranged for them to visit. They played games and distributed sweets and gifts to the children; everyone was very happy (see top photo)!

We had a very different kind of experience of the Christmas season in 2015. All the Christians who live in the city of Keelung gathered at the Ocean Plaza in downtown Keelung on the night of Saturday December 12, in order to start the Christmas celebration activities. Mr. Lin Yu-Chiung, Mayor of Keelung City, formally switched on the Christmas lights that night. We gathered again at the same place on Christmas Eve, about 1,000 Christians. After singing Christmas Carols in front of the stage at Ocean Plaza, we separated into ten smaller groups to share the Good News of Christmas with the people in the area.



On the morning of Christmas Day, we held a service of blessing for Mr. and Mrs. Chiu, a young couple who are not yet Christians, but have

started to come to our church, and who had already had a Civil Marriage Ceremony. We love this blessed couple very much (middle photo).

All the children of St. Stephen's Church presented their talents in a show at the Community Activity Center on the night of Wednesday December 30. A total of 87 people attended that event. The highlight was

when 2 of our church children were presented with red envelopes from Mr. Cheng, Chin-Nung, local district chief of Chung-Shang District (see bottom photo).

Sadly, our beloved brother Mr. Kao Ray-Chin passed away in December, and the funeral service was held on December 31 in Taipei. At least 10 people from our church went to Taipei to attend the service.

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

Rev. Elizabeth Wei Fei-Jan 魏斐然牧師 Rev. Tsai Ching-Yi 蔡靜儀牧師

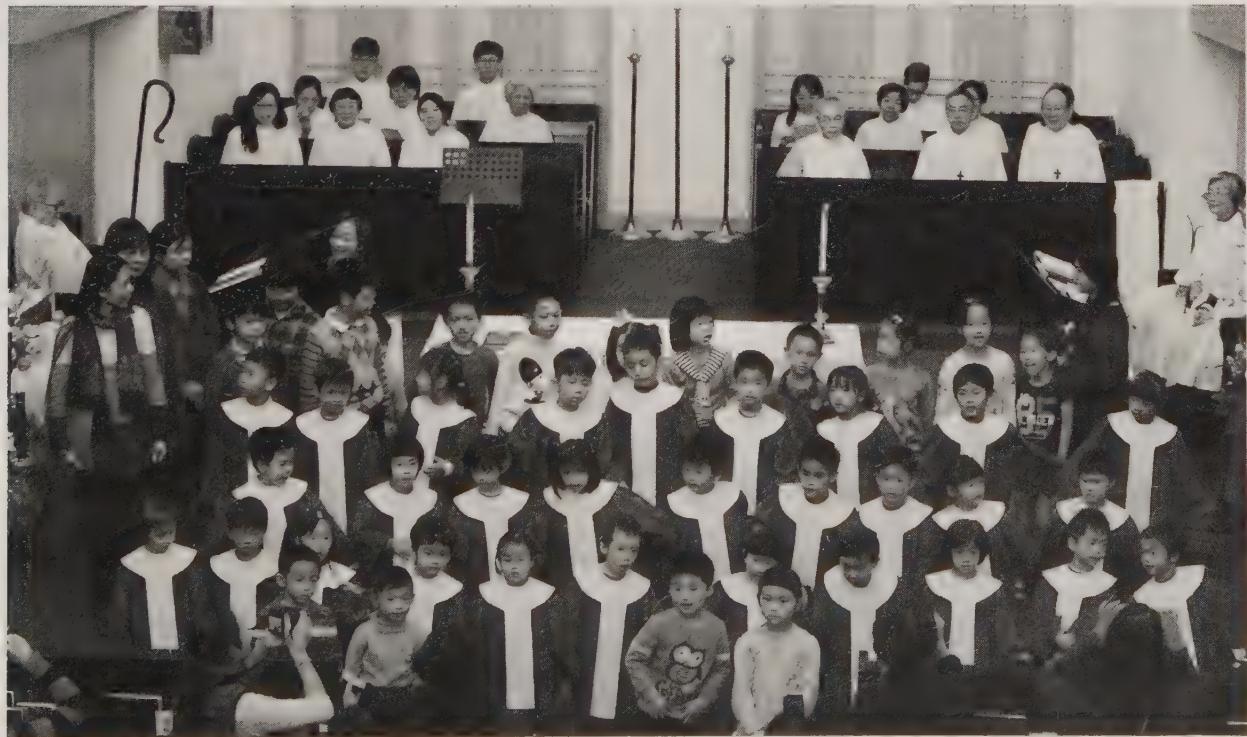
Four children from the congregation were baptized in the Sunday service of All Saints Day on November 1, 2015. Two adult members of the congregation were confirmed on November 29, the First Sunday of Advent.

Following the Diocesan program of Pulpit Exchange we invited Rev. Philip Lin from Good Shepherd Church and Rev. Keith Lee from Grace Church, Tainan, to come and preach on Sunday November 15 and 22 respectively. Rev. Philip Lin also gave a lecture, entitled "A Time Journey of Israel" after the Sunday service.

After the Sunday service on November 22, we invited Dr. Ying-Hua Hsieh, from the Taipei Medical University Wan Fang Hospital, to come and give the third of our lecture series, on the subject of "New global tendencies of anti-aging and cancer prevention". This lecture series is one of the programs hosted by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and E.C.W. Quite a few local people and church members came to listen and gave good responses.

The celebrations of the birth of our Savior started on Christmas Eve, December 24 at 7:30pm with Holy Communion and Christmas readings. During the service, the congregation used the readings and hymns to praise the advent of Christ and also Thanksgiving. After the service, many of us stayed in the room next to the chapel and the rectory, having wonderful fellowship and enjoying a peaceful Christmas Eve.

On the First Sunday after Christmas, December 27, during the Sunday service, the students and teachers of the Sunday School proclaimed the message of salvation to the congregation by means of conversation and description. The choirs of the St. John's Cathedral Kindergarten and the Sunday school were invited to sing during the service, and the choir, the College Fellowship and the drum team of the St. John's Cathedral also joined to sing the hymns (see photo below). After the service, a thanksgiving lunch and a Christmas lottery were held in the room next to the chapel and on the second floor, to praise the grace from our Lord.



CHRISTMAS AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, TAIPEI

Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峰牧師, English Chaplain: Rev. Herbert Barker



We were delighted to welcome members of St. James' Church, Taichung and the Church of the Leading Star to visit Good Shepherd Church and especially to see their former rector, Rev. Philip Lin, on November 21 (see photo above).

We thank God that our Saturday afternoon children's activity sessions have been very successful this semester. 48 children have participated. We have games, activities, crafts, Bible stories and character education (see bottom photo left).

On December 17, we lost a long-time member of Good Shepherd, when Mr. Liao Hong-Ming passed away. He was the organizer of the Bible Studies for the Grace Fellowship cell group. His wife and wife's family are also all long-time members of the church. His funeral was on January 2 in the Taipei

Second Funeral Home, and his Memorial Service was at Good Shepherd Church on January 9, both attended by well over 100 people.

On December 18, a group of us from Good Shepherd Church, including both our clergy and 6 children from our kindergarten, went to share the good news of Christmas with some of our housebound seniors who take part in our Meals-on-Wheels service (see bottom photo right).

It was wonderful that 136 people were able to attend our Christmas Eve service. On Sunday December 27, we welcomed 2 people for baptism at our joint Chinese and English service, one from each congregation.



Good Shepherd English Congregation

By Rev. Herbert Barker

A Thrill of Hope!

Unto us a child is born, Unto us a son is given...Isaiah 9:2

At the Christmas Vigil, we Chinese and English congregations of The Church of the Good Shepherd sang "O Holy Night" together in praise and jubilation of the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Messiah to all the world. We sang, "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, and the soul felt its worth." We sang, "Joy to the World", "The Savior reigns"; we sang, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", "Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."

In these Christmas carols we glorified with thanksgiving the receiving of God with us, Jesus our Immanuel. We were thrilled also to know again that God does not dwell in the heavens far from us, but is making His home with us to dwell in the hearts of all human kind forever. That is a thrill of hope. That is a joyful thrill beyond our greatest expectations. God at Christmas keeps His promise to live with all boys and girls, and women and men forever!

A week later, on the first Sunday after Christmas, we congregations gathered to continue in celebrations of the 12 days of Christmas with the baptisms of Hope Evangeline Chen (see top photo) and Jen Ying Chen. Jen Ying Chen is a member of the Chinese congregation and Hope Evangeline Chen is the



one month old daughter of John and Sharin' of the English congregation (see group photo below of those baptized that day).

Yes, Hope Evangeline is the name of this daughter who is given to not only her parents, to us at Good Shepherd, but is given as a thrill of hope to the entire world. Hope Evangeline, like all children, reminds us that God brings redemption and healing through his children for all of His creation.

At Christmas, we all become children. We become innocent with joy and expectations of good things from the big people of this world, and from our Heavenly

Father made known to us in the infant Jesus. At Christmas time too, we are born again in baptism, and through the renewing of our baptismal vows.

Yes, we are born again with the consciousness and wonder at the mystery that we too are children of God who are valued and

loved beyond any human comprehensions.



Go tell it on the mountains, and in the valleys, and in the city streets and in the countryside that Jesus Christ is born. And that we are born again in His image that is the very image of God our Father.... the creator and sustainer of Love with us and within us. Christmas is indeed a "Thrill of Hope!" Alleluia. Alleluia! Amen.

CHRIST CHURCH, CHUNG-LI

Rev. Joseph Ho Ray-En 何睿恩牧師

All Saints Day, Sunday November 1 was a wonderful day at Christ Church (see photos here). On that day a new person joined our church, and she became the first person to be baptized here. Her name is Teresa Chen; she is a mathematics teacher in an intensive study class, and also one of the volunteers of the Rainbow Family Life Education Association of Wen-Hua Elementary School, near our church. She never came to church until she was baptized, because she had decided not to join any religious group.

Rev. Joseph Ho taught 4th grade in the same group as Teresa last semester in their classes at Wen-Hua, and they became friends.

One day, she told Joseph that Jesus had spoken to her, and asked him if he believed her or not. She said Jesus had told her to be in charge of an intensive study class. Joseph told her he would pray for



her. Her intensive study class began in the summer vacation, and she invited him to teach a Bible Class there every Wednesday morning.

Teresa's husband works in Mainland China. After she started running her own class, she felt bad because she thought she should be with her husband in China. She started to think that family life was more important than her class, so she started to change. She transferred her class to others, and moved to China on November 27. During these times, she discussed and

prayed a lot. God heard her prayers. So Joseph asked her if she wanted to be baptized. But she always said that she didn't want to join any religion. Two days later, she called the church to tell Joseph that she had had a dream, and as a result, she knew she had to make a decision. She decided to be baptized. Praise God!



ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師

Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地榮譽主任牧師



On All Saints Day, November 1, we were pleased to welcome Bishop Lai and Mrs. Lily Lai to our service. On that day we had 2 baptisms, one adult and one child, and 6 people were confirmed (see top right photos).

On Saturday November 7, St. James was one of several churches that participated in the annual ecumenical Sports Day, organized by National Council of Churches of Taiwan (NCCT) and this year run by the R. C. Church and held in an RC School in Taipei. 10 young people from St. James, joined with another group from Christ Church, Chung-Li, plus parents and friends who acted as helpers and cheerleaders, all on the same bus to attend the event. The top left photo was published in the Christian Tribune newspaper, showing some of our youth winning their running race.

Christmas at St. James was extremely busy, with many kindergarten and church celebrations. The kindergarten Christmas Show was a big highlight (see bottom left photo), also the evening when all the former students came back to St. James to collect their scholarship awards and to celebrate Christmas. On Christmas Eve, we had a simple outreach service followed by a meal and performances, plus the distribution of apples to each person (the Chinese word for apple 'ping-guo' sounding similar to the word for peace 'ping-an').

The following day, on December 26, our youth had a outreach Christmas Party celebration with food, singing and sharing together. We normally have about 15 members of our youth group but for the Christmas Party, 83 young people came (see bottom right photo), praise God!



THE CHURCH OF THE LEADING STAR, TAIPING

Rev. Sam Cheng Ching-San 鄭慶三牧師

Our Leading Star Kindergarten has had a very busy Christmas season, with a big celebration on the morning of Saturday December 19 for parents and children, followed by a walkabout on Christmas Eve to the local shops and senior care center to share the good news of Christmas (see photos below).

The right photo shows the lighting of our Advent wreath. On Christmas Eve, rather than holding our own service, we took 9 of our church members to attend the service at St. James' Church, Taichung.



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

Rev. Joseph Wu Ming-Long 吳明龍牧師

Rev. Joseph Wu has been in Hawaii for most of this past semester on a parish placement. Services at St. Luke's Church during this period have been led for a month each by Rev. Wu-Shing-Shiang, Rev. Joseph Ho and Rev. Ching-Yi Tsai.

On Christmas Eve, December 24 from 6:30 pm, we held a Christmas Eve potluck activity, and later at 7:30 pm, we held our Christmas Eve worship (see photo). Through the Lessons and Christmas songs, we enjoyed a peaceful and silent night.

On Sunday December 27 from 13:00 pm we held our year-end

festival, with all the church members performing, and the children enjoyed the lucky draw. Everyone gathered to enjoy the wonderful afternoon.



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI

Rev. Simon Tsou Tsai-Shin 鄒才新牧師



ABOVE PHOTOS : ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BEFORE THE RENOVATION (LEFT) AND AFTER (MIDDLE), ALL SAINTS DAY CELEBRATION THANKSGIVING SERVICE (RIGHT)



NOVEMBER 7: FELLOWSHIP AT THE HOME OF MR. GEORGE HUANG AND FAMILY



DECEMBER 13: CONFIRMATION SERVICE WITH BISHOP LAI

Thanks be to God! At the end of October 2015, it was with great relief and rejoicing that we finally finished a big overhaul of the church building, due to a major termite infestation in the roof. It has been a huge renovation project and challenge for us. Now we have no ceiling, instead we have exposed wooden beams, which will make it much easier to manage and check for future problems, and makes the church seem bigger and lighter. We used the bits of wood that were left over to make into holding crosses for commemoration, they are being sold to fund the renovation. On All Saints Day we held a celebration Thanksgiving Service to complete the work. On that day, we also welcomed 2 new members for baptism, Mr. George Huang and Ms. Eunice Wu. Mr. George Huang, his wife Sophia and their daughter have started to come to church as a result of participating in our English Bible Study group since 2014. On November 7, we all went to their home for a fellowship visit.

Eunice Wu is a junior high school student who has participated in our youth band and fellowship since 2013. Now she needs to prepare for her high school music exam this summer.

On Friday November 27, we started a new English Bible Study for senior high school students, this course is once a month, and we are thankful to Catherine Lee for helping us with this new course.

On Sunday December 13, Bishop Lai lead a confirmation service for 4 new church members, George, Sophia, Eunice and Dr. Chu. Dr. Chu is a professor in National Chung Cheng University in Chia-Yi, who became a Christian and was baptized when she studied recently at the University of Oxford. She has been delighted to find an Anglican Church in Chia-Yi, and to discover that her colleague, Mr. Chen Gung, is also one of our church members.

GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

18 members of Grace Church (including 2 from St. Peter's and St. Timothy's) traveled on a church choir visit to Hong Kong and attended the Sunday Service at St. John's Cathedral, Hong Kong on All Saints Day, Sunday November 1 (see bottom 2 photos). We also had a praise song sharing event after the service with the brothers and sisters of the Cathedral Mandarin fellowship. Thanks to Mr. Jim Lin, and Mrs. Lee's leading, also thanks for Ms. Jude Chu's assistance to our journey. Also thanks for all those who participated, prayed and supported us. That Sunday, Rev. June Chou kindly took the service at Grace Church.

22 students from Tainan Theological Seminary attended our Sunday service on November 15, to experience Anglican worship. They all enjoyed it and were interested in the traditional worship service.

Bishop David Lai and Mrs. Lai came to Grace Church and officiated at the Sunday Service on November 22.

After the 4th Sunday of Advent worship on December 20, Grace Church then held the Christmas Eve Service in the evening of the same day. We wanted to make an easy, unhurried, peaceful tempo for the brothers and sisters to enjoy the worship, as both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were working days. So we tried to have a little change, and we found that more people were able to attend and most of the people indeed had good responses. Before the Christmas Eve Service, we had a Christmas

potluck dinner, with lots of delicious food shared by our members and we had a blessed time.

"Lotus Home"(蓮心園), a Down's syndrome youth caring and training centre founded by a Buddhist group, came to visit Grace Church on December 22, and asked Rev. Keith Lee to share the Christmas story to encourage the 18 teenage students with Down's syndrome. They all had a wonderful and abundant time.



The 2015 Christmas fellowship of southern clergy families was held in Tainan on December 31. The southern clergy families gathered at Grace Church at 10:00am and started with the Eucharist, then had fellowship and lunch at Lunyuen Restaurant.

A joyous occasion happened in Grace Church! On New Year's Day, January 1, we had the wedding of Mr. Michael Lin and his wife. Michael is the son of the chairman of our Bishop's Committee, he is also Bishop and Mrs. Lai's nephew (see middle photo,

left). His wife comes from a Presbyterian family, and the wedding ceremony was held at Tainan Theological Seminary. Bishop Lai was the officiant and gave the blessing. The members of Grace Church sang an anthem of blessing for them. The service was followed by the wedding banquet. Congratulations to the newlyweds and their families, may God bless them and lead their new life.



ST. ANDREW'S KINDERGARTEN, JIE-DING

Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章牧師



We had 2 main events over the Christmas season, (photos on this page) and the first was on Saturday December 12 when we held a kindergarten Christmas celebration for parents, children and visitors. We had many presentations, singing and dancing performances from the children, a drama of the Christmas story and lots of games and fun.

The kindergarten prepared food, and parents also were encouraged to bring a plate of food to share.



On Friday December 25, Christmas Day, all 90+ of our kindergarten children, teachers and many parents went out to the center of Jie-Ding Town to share the good news of Christmas with everyone in the town square. Outside the main temple in Jie-Ding is a market place area and in that area we performed some singing and dancing shows and drama for the local people. This was a wonderful occasion to share the joy of Christmas!



ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG
Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章牧師



Our main Christmas celebrations at St. Mark's were held on the weekend after Christmas (see photos above and below). On Saturday December 26, we all went to Ming-Jong Hospital in Ping-Tung to sing Christmas carols and share the good news of Christmas with the patients and their families. That evening we held a Christmas celebration in the church, with a pot-luck meal and sharing fellowship together. We were delighted that 2 of the youth from St. James' Church, Taichung

who are studying at university in Ping-Tung were able to join us on that occasion.



ADVENT WORSHIP AT ST. MARK'S: LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

On Sunday December 27, we went to share the good news of Christmas at Ping-Tung Hospital where one of our church members is currently admitted.

We began 2016 with a visit from Bishop Lai and Mrs. Lily Lai on Sunday January 10. The new Bishop's Committee was commissioned during the service.



ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN

Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師



The main highlight of this past year has been the big celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of All Saints Church! We celebrated on Saturday November 28, with over 100 in attendance at the 10:00am Thanksgiving Service and over 90 at the celebration banquet that followed. Clergy and church members came from all over the diocese (group photo on the cover page, other photos here). To each one we presented a USB Memory Stick of all the old photos of All Saints, plus photos of all the artifacts in our church. It was a wonderful occasion. Bishop Lai celebrated and preached.

Our senior group enjoy their monthly outings. In October we visited Cihou Fort in Chijin, Kaohsiung, in November we joined a southern deanery outing to Kaohsiung Farm, and in December we visited the Bible Museum in Ping-Tung.

One of our older church members, Mr. Chang Yi-Chong died aged 95 on November 22. His funeral was on November 27 at Kaohsiung Funeral Home, and his Memorial Service was on December 26 at All Saints.

On November 29, Advent Sunday, we presented study scholarships to 2 of our young people who are studying at university. On Saturday December 12, we enjoyed a visit to the home of one of our church members for a fellowship family service. On December 19, during both morning and afternoon, we went out to share the good news of Christmas around the community. On Christmas Eve we had our main Christmas service at 7:00pm, and afterwards distributed the diocesan calendars and breakfast boxes.



ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師



In September, we started a course of Evangelism Explosion Training, with particular emphasis on door-to-door outreach. At the beginning, we had four students but now there are seven. In addition we have fourteen prayer partners. The church has taken one step forward. We learned how to share own testimonies and talk about the Gospel to passers-by or strangers. Some of the people we have shared with have decided to believe in Jesus. Some have come to church to join the Sunday Service or Christmas events. The most important thing was the joy that we experienced, whenever we went out to do evangelism, it felt just like an excursion. We pray to the Lord to continue leading us to bring more and more people to the Lord and into the church. This first course will end in January.

On Saturday December 20, we joined in a big Christmas Carnival in Kaohsiung. Our church offered two booths, one offering food, the other offering games. Among many activities we shared the Gospel to all the people there. There were almost 10,000 people who took part in this Christmas Carnival.

Mrs. Shui-hsien Hsieh was baptized during the Christmas Eve Candle Light Service at 7:30pm on December 24. She also shared her witness, it was really a warm time.

We had a Christmas party on the evening of December 26. The first half was singing songs and witness. The second half included tea time and a gift lottery. We had 7 small groups, and some church members were the group leaders and shared our church life in their group. The visitors and new friends gave good feedback, and some of them wanted to know Jesus. We had a total of 120 participants, of which about half were new people. Children made cookie houses and went caroling. We asked the local district chief to help us to find ten stores who would welcome us for caroling. Many of the store's owners offered gifts to the children, and at the last store, the owner invited us to take a break at 2F and enjoy a star show. That was great for all the children and they all have wonderful memories of the occasion. After the Christmas party we received a lot of response notes, and we will give these notes to the Evangelism Explosion training students to follow up.

In 2016, we hope we can have more outreach ministry. We want to start some classes for the local community, take care of some poor families and do evangelism in the area.

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG.

Rev. Philip Ho Jeng-Long 何政隆牧師



The Mid-Autumn Moon Festival is a most important day for Chinese families to get together at home, no matter how far from their home the members may be. So the day is often called Mid-Autumn 'Getting Together Day'. That is why you can see in this photo above there were 43 young people who came back to St. Paul's Church on September 26 to have much fun and delicious food with Rev. Philip Ho and the Joy Fellowship. That night all the youth came back from Taipei, Taoyuan, Taichung, Tainan, and all different corners of Kaohsiung. They had a race to tear off the skin of the pomelo fruits, which is the traditional fruit eaten at the festival. The six teams prepared very well for all the big family to enjoy eating the sweet and juicy pomelo

fruits. This was followed by performances from many of the youth, singing hymns, playing violins and flutes, and a magic show. These are very lovely youth with very good talent!

During that evening, St. Paul's Church also prepared many gifts as prizes for the young performers, plus the winners who could reply with the correct answer when Rev. Philip Ho asked questions about the stories in the Bible. I thought that our dear heavenly Father was very happy to enjoy the activities with us that night, for He is always joyful to play with His children. Smiling faces are the most beautiful pictures in the world. Where there is a smiling heart in Jesus, there is joy in heaven!





On October 17, our seniors and women's group went together to visit St. James' Church in Taichung by taking the Taiwan High Speed Rail (HSR) from Kaohsiung (see bottom photo on previous page). 15 people, including 3 seniors who were over 80 years old - a 93-year-old sister Jean Lin together with her oldest son who is 72 years old and her youngest son who is 64 years old, and a couple Mr. Andy Liu and Mrs. Jane Liu who are 82 and 83 years old. None of these seniors had had the chance to take the HSR before and they were very happy and excited during the whole visit. It was very nice for this group to visit the famous National Art Museum in Taichung, located opposite St. James' Church. 92-year-old Jean was a Chinese painting artist when she was young and her paintings hang on the wall in an activity room of St. Paul's Church. That was a special testimony for the love from our dear heavenly Father flowing among the members of both St. James and St. Paul's Church, for the Rector of St. James, Lily Chang, with her coworker team, treated the senior group to a very delicious lunch showing very warm hospitality. They also arranged to pick us all up from Taichung HSR station and then drove us back to Taichung HSR station at the end.

It was amazing grace for this senior group that they enjoyed an unforgettable beautiful journey.

A sunny fine day with blue sky, white cloud, green mountains, and colorful people who were dancing hand in hand in a half circle to sing the native songs of the Paiwan Tribe and to dance joyfully on a green pasture that is full of water, named Wetland. That was a mid-term outing for the "Goodness People College of St. Paul's Church (GPC)" 38 students and 2 teachers led by Mrs. Nancy Liao, the

principal of the GPC (see above photo). We arranged to visit the beautiful scenes at the Mudan township of Pingtung County by taking a tour bus. This circle was made of a few Christians and many students who have not yet accepted Jesus as their Lord. Rev. Philip Ho's plan for the GPC is to invite people to learn something about the Gospel, so he gives a very short sermon after singing a hymn, reading a paragraph of the Bible and saying a prayer for the students at the very beginning of each lesson of the different courses from Monday to Friday. Praise the Lord, we have got a new member, Amy Lee, who was baptized on May 3 after two months of her Japanese lessons.

On December 6, Bishop Lai came to St. Paul's Church and gave a very good sermon, in which he shared a very important point when he said he liked to come back to St. Paul's Church very much because he was baptized and confirmed in this church when he was young, so this is his home church. After the worship all the church members asked to take a picture with him on the steps at the front gate of the church. Smile (see photo on page 39)!

On December 19, that morning was full of excitement and the air was filled with a very cool and happy perfume. All the students of the Kindergarten of St. Paul's Church came together to perform songs, happy dances, and the drama of the Birth of Jesus. Double the number of the little students, their parents, grandmas, grandpas and their relatives came with happiness to watch their little children's performances. There were also about 30 members of the GPC who came together joyfully to join in the activities and to sing hymns. They also prepared for a charity sale with many things such as hand-made hot coffee (see top photo on page 39) hand-

made cookies, tea eggs, sesame oil chicken rice, fish ball soap, Latte Coffee, and handmade hair jewelry. At the end of the sale, they donated the entire surplus to the Early Intervention Service Institute of Eden Social

Welfare Foundation. One of the special performances of the students of the GPC was to sing a wonderful hymn called, "It is so good to believe in Jesus" led by Philip. It was a very joyful hymn performance and testimony for Jesus before the entire large audience composed of all the parents and grandparents.

In the afternoon of the December 20 from 3:00-7:00pm, a group of 18 of us, including 9 young students, went with Rev. Philip Ho to join in the Christmas Carnival, held at the spacious wide plaza in front of the Kaohsiung Cultural Center. There were over 50 booths spread all over the wide court with many delicious foods, and fun games to share with all the people who came to eat and to play. All of the 20 different church booths focused on their



main aim to proclaim the Gospel and the salvation of Jesus. At our two booths, we supplied one free bowl of delicious sesame chicken rice and king trumpet mushrooms for every person after they had read a verse

from the Bible written on a card. At the other booth, whoever came to play a game read the Bible verse, and then could play the game and get a small gift such as a piece of candy.

We had a joyful Sunday Worship Service, on December 27 when Ms. Wendy Lee was baptized to be a new Christian. She has been coming to St. Paul's Church to worship our dear Lord for many years, and she always comes 15 minutes early before the service starts. Although she doesn't stay long to talk with people after the Sunday lunch, she keeps coming to worship our dear Lord. Now she is very happy to join in many activities with our members. I think that there was a big party opened in the joyful heaven the morning Wendy was baptized with water and the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord!



TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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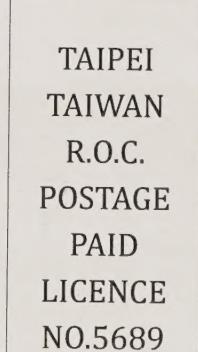


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